MEMO

DATE: October 3, 2019

SUBJECT: Libya Weekly Update

Below is a summary of the latest top headlines of the week surrounding the news in Libya. Key highlights include:

- The Government of National Accord successfully assisted the United States in conducting
 four separate airstrikes in September against ISIS terrorists. These attacks resulted in 43
 dead militants and prove the GNA's ongoing commitment to fighting terrorism in the region
 in cooperation with United States. General Haftar, on the other hand, conducted airstrikes
 against a force in Sirte, Libya whose very role is to support United States in fighting terrorism
 in the region.
- Foreign powers continue to influence Libya's ongoing conflict. Both sides are being funneled
 military support, and Haftar's support is in violation of the UN embargo Russia also is sending
 military troops and missiles into Libya in support of General Haftar. It is reported that Putin's
 goal is to turn Libya into another Syria and create yet another migrant crisis in the West.
- Libya's Central Bank Governor published an opinion piece on the current conflict in Libya, and the constructive role that the Central Bank is playing in spite of the ongoing conflict.

Bloomberg (9/30): U.S. Steps Up Strikes on Islamic State Militants in Libya

- The US conducted another round of airstrikes against ISIS in Libya, thanks to support from the GNA.
- These strikes killed seven suspected ISIS members and was the fourth strike in the past month, which totaled to 43 militants dead.

Wall Street Journal (10/1): Foreign Backing Brings Militias in Libya to a Stalemate—and No Further

- Foreign powers have been funneling in military support on both sides of the Libya conflict, but not enough to tip the scale to either side.
- The Government of National Accord have enjoyed recent successes, such as the recapturing of the strategically important town of Gharyan, south of Tripoli.
- US Officials have stated their support for consulting with Libyan leaders to bring both sides back to the negotiating table. Washington has supported the GNA historically.

TIME (9/27): 17 Killed in U.S. Airstrike on Suspected ISIS Targets in Libya, Military Says

- The US conducted a third round of airstrikes in eight days targeting ISIS fighters in Libya.
- These airstrikes were carried out with assistance from the Government of National Accord.
- 17 ISIS fighters were killed in the attacks with 0 civilian casualty.

Libya Observer (9/26): Haftar's airforce strikes Protection Force of Sirte, no casualties reported

• General Haftar's forces conducted airstrikes on a force in Libya that protects Sirte from ISIS in the region.

Disseminated by Mercury Public Affairs LLC, a registered foreign agent, on behalf of the Government of National Accord Libya, Office of the Prime Minister. More information is on file with the dept. Of justice, Washington, DC.

• This is another example of Haftar's lack of concern over the growth of ISIS in the region.

The Sun (9/20): <u>Putin Troops In Libya Russia sends troops and missiles into Libya in bid to enforce stranglehold on the West</u>

- Russia is moving troops and missiles into Libya to enforce a hold on the West.
- Putin envisions making Libya his "new Syria," seizing control of the biggest illegal immigration route into Europe being his primary goal.
- Russia is sided with General Haftar in this fight and supplying his troops with equipment. If they obtain control, they will send waves of migrants across the Mediterranean.

The Banker (10/1): Saddek Elkaber: a lesson from Libya's central bank

• Libya's Central Bank Government published an opinion piece on the current conflict in Libya, and the role that the central bank can play in unifying the country.

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